

The Same But Different (John 5:1-11)

I. They Were The Same But Different In Their Sickness

- A. There Was A Variety Of Sickness
- B. They Were All vexed with Sickness

II. They Were The Same But Different In Their Situation

- A. They Were Positioned Differently
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- B. Jesus' Eyes Were Set On The Person

## The Same but Different (Jn 5:1-11)

My daddy uses a phrase that to many who don't know my dad, would make no sense what so ever. It is a phrase that is used to indicate similarity and diversity at the same time trying to describe something to me, he will say, "Have you ever seen a "such+such"? I say "yes" "Well it's like that but different." Then he will say it "It's the same but different." What he means by that is that it is similar in many respects but different in others. You know this phrase could be applied to all of us as well, we are all the same, we all have noses+ears + skin and yet they are different. This is also true with us standing before God. We are all sinners

### I. They were the Same but Different in their Sickness

The sheep market (busy place) was near by this crowded pool of Bethesda.

A. There was a variety of Sickness - This particular crowd at the pool of Bethesda was a sickly crowd. Apparently God had miraculously healed people there from time to time. Vs 3+4 Vs 3 tells us that there were people there with a variety of sickness: impotent (weak feeble), blind, halt, withered.

Like us, different. Some crippled by sin, sin blind  
Some overwhelmed by sin, paralyzed by sin, weakened

B. They were all vexed with Sickness - But no matter how varied their sickness,

they were all plagued with sickness. They all had problems. Their problems may have all been different, But they were all in need of a cure. You may be here crippled by sin blinded by sin paralyzed. Yet all have in common Rom 3:23

II... Same but different in their Situation  
v3c, "having 5 porches. All these sick folk were situated on these 5 porches surrounding the <sup>pool</sup> A. They were all positioned differently - You see not all of them was on the same porch. Not only that they were probably positioned differently, some sitting waiting on the pool steps, others leaning against stone pillars. Others like this impotent man were lying on beds. Some may have changed positions, new folks added. This is like the lost in their sins, some stand in B. They were all purposed identically - Yet no matter how varied their positions was they were all in need of a cure. The lost church member is no better positioned before God than the drug addict in the crack house, or the murderer on death row. We are all sinners before the eyes of a holy God. And Christ is the <sup>3</sup> only cure! Acts

III. Same but different in their Suffering  
This pool at Bethesda was a place of suffering. Can you hear the moans & groans... A. Suffering was their common link

to 1) ...all sinners. Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; There is no difference, yet there is a difference. I believe this account of the impotent man brings these differences to light and I'd like for you to see them. }

2) ...some stand in their sins. Because of their up bringing they do not sink to the depths of depravity that others do. Some sin in their sins, relaxing in their iniquity. Their conscience doesn't bother them any more. Yet others lay even down and roll around in their sin, nothing is too wicked and vile for them.

3) Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

5) Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

- 1) Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 2) James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.
- 3) ...comes crashing down on you.
- 4) ...pain of the depths of sin that others in this room have suffered. Maybe we have others here this morning that can testify to the suffering of being "now a long time in that case. You bare the marks and scars of sin. Will you go right on living in that condition until you die? Jesus said in John 8:24 ...ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." How tragic to live this life suffering the pain and guilt of sin only to die and arrive in Hell a place of eternal suffering. Oh come to Jesus!
- 5) Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
- 6) ...with out the aid of the Spirit of God which "reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:" (John 16:8) God is not willing that any perish, so in varying degrees and ways his Sprit bid's men and women, boys and girls to seek His.

Now I don't care if you have the common cold or 4<sup>th</sup> stage cancer, that sickness is going to bring some amount of suffering. Sin always brings suffering. Rom 6:23<sup>①</sup>

It doesn't say after 10 or 100 sins you've crossed the line, no sin equals death. James 2:10<sup>②</sup> The whole law comes crashing

B. Their Suffering was not Common in Length-  
Although the suffering of sin is a common link we all share, the length of that suffering is different vs. 5. 38 years this man suffered.

Some new arrivals probably came to the pool that day, yet this man had suffered 38 yrs.

You young people, because of these <sup>③</sup>strange

parents have not suffered the pain of the depth.

#### IV. Same but different in their Seeking-

V3. Said that there was a great multitude there at this pool. They were there seeking Help!

A. They were all the same in their Desire for Healing

They all had no desire to stay in their present condition. They knew lots of people had been helped there before.

Every one of them dreamed of the day they would place their foot into the water and pull it out healed. New Pcer 3:11 says

Man on his own can not seek after God w/o the

B. Not all the same in their Desperation for Healing

This man seemingly lost hope. He was there he was seeking. But after 38 years his hope

had waned. He even ~~named~~ others in VS 1. There were others more desperate getting to the pool before H in. Some in the healing work of Salvation. ~~Some, for what ever reason, seek~~ hand after the Lord even in youth, some later ①

V. Some but different in His Sight - Lets not forget who is on the scene here in this seemingly hopeless case! The Lord Jesus is A. Jesus' eyes Saw all the People - When the Lord Jesus' eyes scanned across this this great crowd of sickness he saw every one of them particularly. ~~He saw~~ their ailment and disabilities Heb 4:13 Jesus sees everybody. All six billion people living on this planet. How foolish the ~~thing~~ that any of us can hide from His keen.

B. Jesus' eyes were Set on the Person - But although he saw the multitude his eyes fell particularly on this one impotent man J 6a. Just as Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord so did this man. God graciously singles Noah out, just as the Lord Jesus begins to graciously tend to this man's need Oh sinners friend, The Lord Jesus has set his eyes on you to day, the H.S. has prepared your heart to seek the Lord He pointing out to your sins, Will then he made whole? Will you not care to day, Why do you languish on the porch of sin come to Jesus

- 1) ...some later in life find Him in those healing waters. Yet others, are stirred from time to time, but lie and languish in their lost condition, seemingly to lose hope. Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. As Jesus came to this pool and found this man, so is he seeking out your heart, calling you unto salvation.
- 2) Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

